

issue. This has been around since 1989. Essentially, it is a battle between those States who want to export their trash to another State and those States on the receiving end who do not want it.

Not long ago in my State, the city of Miles City faced a prospect that was practically a Noah's flood of garbage imports. Fortunately, that plan fell through, but the really crazy and humiliating part of it all was that the 5,000 citizens of Miles City could only sit and wait. They had no say at all and no way to stop the waste from coming in. Why? Very simply, because the Supreme Court has struck down attempts by States to limit importation of garbage, saying it violates the commerce clause of the Constitution. So we in the Congress have to act and pass Federal legislation that enables States and enables local communities to say no.

It is obviously wrong, Mr. President. It is unfair for any city, whether Miles City or any other city in the United States, to not have the right to say no to garbage coming into their State. As you recall, we in the Senate have done our part. Way back in May of 1995, we passed a bill to let Montana and other States say no to the importation of out-of-State garbage. The House of Representatives, however, has a different story. They have stalled. They have stalled on any action in this measure for a couple of years.

I say that the people of Montana, the people of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and other States affected by the deluge of garbage coming into their States cannot afford to wait any longer. They are anxious. They are concerned. They feel the Government ought to be able to do something to address this situation. Some of these States are already importing millions of tons of garbage, and they do not want to import more.

Now it appears that New York City may add 10,000 tons or more of trash every day—10,000 tons of trash every day—when it closes its Fresh Kills landfill on the outskirts of New York City. That should drive home to everyone, and especially the House, how important it is to act and to act quickly.

We talk a lot around here about local control, about letting States decide their own destiny, letting local communities decide their own destiny. By saying no to the Senate amendment on this conference report, the House is preventing the people from controlling their own destiny. By saying no, States cannot stop out-of-State garbage from being dumped in their own backyard.

Obviously, the Senate bill we passed is not perfect. It is a compromise. It is a compromise between the importing States that take garbage and do not want the garbage and the exporting States that, frankly, want to export more. It is a compromise. It is a compromise we can live with.

Now, the House, apparently, does not want to act. It is not compromising. I say the House should pass something

which at least they think makes sense for them. That way, we can work another compromise that is between the House and the Senate, and we can finally solve this problem—it is not the perfect way, but in a way that generally resolves the problems so that today more local communities can say no to the importation of garbage coming into their States. That is only fair. I ask the House to act quickly.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 11 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3662, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Pressler Amendment No. 5351, to promote the livestock industry.

Bumpers modified amendment No. 5353 (to committee amendment on page 25, line 4 through line 10), to increase the fee charged for domestic livestock grazing on public rangelands.

AMENDMENT NO. 5353, AS MODIFIED

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we have now resumed consideration of the Bumpers-Gregg amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GORTON. Between now and 12:30, while we are on the Bumpers-Gregg amendment relating to grazing fees, I believe that that amendment was debated thoroughly yesterday afternoon. In addition, there will be 20 minutes equally divided on the amendment after we reconvene following the party luncheons before our vote on that amendment.

As a consequence, Mr. President, I suspect that there is time between now and 12:30 to deal with any other amendments that Members of the Senate may wish to propound. There are some 25 or 30, at least, amendments that are relevant to this bill on which the managers have been notified. Probably half or more of them can be accepted in their present form or another form can be worked out.

So all Senators who are within hearing of these proceedings can be on no-

tice that this may be a particularly convenient time in which to bring such amendments to the floor and to have them considered.

With that, and until we have some business to do, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, just a few moments ago the Democratic conferees that had intended to meet in conference between the House and the Senate to consider the immigration bill were notified that conference was indefinitely postponed. No time was established when there might be a follow-up conference.

The issues of illegal immigration are of enormous importance to this country. There are a number of States that are directly impacted by illegal immigration, but the problems of illegal immigration also affect just about every State in this country in one form or another. There has been considerable discussion and debate about what policies we ought to follow to address the issues of illegal immigration.

For a number of years, we have had special commissions that were set up by the Congress to look at various immigration issues. We had the Hesburgh Commission. The commission was bipartisan in nature and made a series of recommendations both with regard to legal and illegal immigration. The Congress acted on both of the recommendations.

Subsequently, because of the enormous flow of illegal immigrants coming to the United States, the Hesburgh Commission called for the United States to respond to the problem. After all, it is a function of our National Government to deal with protection of the borders, and also to guard the borders themselves. This area of public policy presented an extremely important responsibility for national policymakers.

Beginning just about 2 years ago my colleague and friend, the Senator from Wyoming became the Chair of the Immigration Subcommittee. I have enjoyed working with him on immigration—we have agreed on many, many different items; we differ on some issues, and some we have had the good opportunity to debate on the floor of the Senate on various occasions.

In fact, we agreed on many of the provisions in the Senate immigration bill. I welcomed the opportunity to support the legislation which passed overwhelmingly—97 to 3. Although the legislation was not perfect, it represented a bipartisan effort to try to